

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY S/AM:LPEZZULLO

APPROVED BY S/AM:AMB. MCCLOSKEY

B/B :REWOODS

EUR/IB-MR. LUKENS

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O 050047Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220117

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: REPORTED US WITHDRAWAL OF PROMISE OF AID TO
PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 4300

1. AT LUNCHEON TODAY AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY INFORMED AMB. THEMIDO THAT WE HAD RECEIVED DISTURBING REPORT FROM OUR EMBASSY IN LISBON THAT THE GOP HAD REACHED THE ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION BASED ON DISCUSSIONS HERE YESTERDAY WITH FINMIN SILVA LOPES THAT USG WAS RETREATING FROM ITS WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST THE PORTUGUESE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. MCCLOSKEY REITERATED WHAT HE HAD SAID AT THE MEETING WITH SILVA LOPES, NAMELY THAT THE USG CONTINUED TO APPROACH THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE GOP IN THE SAME SPIRIT IN WHICH THE SECRETARY HAD SPOKEN TO SOARES. THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO CHANGE IN OUR ATTITUDE.

2. THEMIDO THEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MISUNDERSTANDING. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD TAKEN REMARKS BY MCCLOSKEY, THAT WHEN PORTUGAL TALKED ABOUT MASSIVE ASSISTANCE THE SECRETARY SAID THAT MIGHT REQUIRE
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SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL REQUEST FOR PORTUGAL AND THAT HE

WOULD TALK TO PRESIDENT AT TIME HE SOUGHT DATE FOR SPINOLA MEETING, TO MEAN THAT THE USG WAS NO LONGER SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING PORTUGAL'S REQUESTS NOW THAT SPINOLA HAD RESIGNED. THEMIDO WAS REASSURED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. MCCLOSKEY REMINDED HIM AS HE HAD SILVA LOPES YESTERDAY THAT WE BOTH MUST BE REALISTIC GIVEN LEGISLATIVE RESTRAINTS WITHIN WHICH WE MUST OPERATE.

3. THEMIDO PROMISED TO CALL LISBON AND SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

4. COMMENT: SILVA LOPES MAY HAVE BEEN DISTURBED YESTERDAY BY OUR INABILITY TO COMMIT OURSELVES IMMEDIATELY TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE. SOARES, BASED ON HIS TALKS HERE, APPARENTLY HAD LEFT HIM WITH IMPRESSION WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO APPROVE LOANS WHEN SILVA LOPES CAME.

5. THEMIDO ALSO AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO BEGIN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AZORES BASE BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 11. WE PROPOSED THAT THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS BE DEVOTED TO DEFINING THE MODALITIES AND SCOPE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. THEMIDO SAID HE WOULD CABLE LISBON FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

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